ABSTRACT

In a dark environment, when a backlight 119 is lighted, white light emitted from the surface of a light guide plate 118 passes through a polarizing plate 107 and a phase plate 108 and, further, passes through a transflective plate 111 and a transparent electrode 116 provided on the inner surface of a substrate 102 before it is introduced into a liquid crystal layer 3. Then, it is guided to the exterior of a liquid crystal cell and sequentially passes through a phase plate 106 and a polarizing plate 105 before it is guided to the exterior. In a bright environment, external light incident from the polarizing plate 105 passes through the liquid crystal layer 3, and is then reflected by the transflective plate 111 through the transparent electrode 116 before it is passed through the polarizing plate 105 again and guided to the exterior.